

Top 5 Things To Do This Week in Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, March 11-15

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Fun events in Sarasota and Manatee counties

1. **Siesta Beach**

Whether you're participating in the 8:30 a.m. [Sunrise Beach Walks](#) on Wednesdays or there to soak up the sun in the afternoon, our [top-ranked Siesta Beach](#) is the place to be in Sarasota County, especially now during spring break season. Also, don't forget to check out our list of [15 great Siesta Key Village restaurants, bars and nightclubs](#) if you're looking for a fun place to dine, drink or dance after spending time in that 99 percent pure, crushed quartz [sand](#). Siesta Beach is at 948 Beach Road, Siesta Key; 941-861-5000; [scgov.net](#)

2. **'The Lion King' at Van Wezel**

After 20 years on Broadway, "The Lion King" will make its Sarasota debut Thursday on the Van Wezel performing Arts Hall stage for a three-week engagement. The musical features the beloved Elton John-Tim Rice songs "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Circle of Life" and "I Just Can't Wait to be King." Thursday through March 31 at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota; various prices; 941-953-3368; [vanwezel.org](#)

3. **Sarasota County Fair**

Thrill rides, livestock shows and all our favorite deep-fried foods are among the attractions at the 83rd annual Sarasota County Fair starting Friday and running through March 24. 2-11 p.m. Fridays, 12-11 p.m. Saturdays; 12-10 p.m. Sundays and 5-10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd.,

Sarasota; \$9 adults with discounts for seniors, military and children; 941-365-0818; sarasotafair.com

4. Manatee Heritage Days

Manatee Heritage Days celebrates its 40th anniversary this month with a full schedule of events including recurring activities such as DeSoto National Memorial's Living History program at Camp Uzita (Thursdays-Sundays), Historic Valentine open house at Robinson Preserve (Saturdays) and the Jiggs Landing open house (Saturdays). For more information, call 941-749-1800 or visit manateeclerk.com for complete schedule.

5. Embracing Our Differences

It's the final week for the 16th anniversary exhibit of Embracing Our Differences on beautiful Bayfront Park in downtown Sarasota. Students from 239 schools around the world submitted artwork or quotes to the juried exhibit that includes 45 billboard-sized works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. Today through Friday; 5 Bayfront Drive, Sarasota; embracingourdifferences.org
Find more featured events at ticketsarasota.com.